

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113284

EXDIS GENEVA FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, WA

SUBJECT: YOUR TALKS WITH VORSTER ON NAMIBIA

LISBON FOR VICE PRESIDENT FROM CHRISTOPHER, ACTING
MAPUTO FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. THE CONTACT GROUP HAS GIVEN WRITTEN SUMMARIES OF
THE RESULTS OF THE CAPE TOWN TALKS TO MOZAMBIQUE OFFICIALS
AND TO SWAPO'S SAM NUJOMA. THE ACTION WAS CONTRARY TO
OUR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND IS LIKELY
TO COME UP IN THE COURSE OF YOUR TALKS WITH VORSTER.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS: DURING THE CAPE TOWN TALKS
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THE CONTACT GROUP AND OFFICIALS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT AGREED THAT CONTACT GROUP BRIEFINGS OF
INTERESTED AFRICAN PARTIES WOULD NOT INCLUDE TRANSMITTAL
OF WRITTEN RECORDS OR DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TALKS.
THROUGH A MISUNDERSTANDING, AND IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP
CERTAIN LINGUISTIC DIFFICULTIES, THE MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN
MINISTER WAS GIVEN A SUMMARY OF THE CAPE TOWN

PROCEEDINGS. ACTING IN THE BELIEF THAT THE MOZAMBIQUANS WOULD SOON FORWARD A COPY TO SWAPO, A COPY WAS ALSO GIVEN TO SAM NUJOMA, SWAPO PRESIDENT, WHEN HE WAS

BRIEFED. THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CONSIDERING PROVISION OF COPIES TO NYERERE OF TANZANIA AND KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA AND POSSIBLY OTHERS AT MAPUTO CONFERENCE SUCH AS AMBASSADOR SALIM OF TANZANIA AND KAMANA OF ZAIRE, TWO KEY FIGURES IN THE AFRICAN GROUP.

3. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF TRANSMITTAL TO MOZAMBIQUE AND NUJOMA, AND VORSTER WILL BE AWARE OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S DEVIATION FROM AGREED PROCEDURES WHEN YOU MEET IN VIENNA MAY 20. VORSTER IS A CLEVER NEGOTIATOR WHO MAY TRY TO PUT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE BY ARGUING THAT THE CONTACT GROUP HAS ALREADY GONE BACK ON ITS WORD AND THEREFORE THE CONTACT GROUP SHOULD MODERATE ITS DEMANDS ON SOUTH AFRICA. WE SUGGEST THAT SHOULD VORSTER RAISE THIS ISSUE, YOU MAY WISH TO COMMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE TALKING POINTS BELOW:

4. TALKING POINTS:

-- A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE WORKING PAPER WHICH CONCLUDED THE CAPE TOWN TALKS WAS DELIVERED TO THE MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN MINISTER THROUGH A MISUNDERSTANDING.

-- AS THE MAPUTO GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY PASS A CONFIDENTIAL

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COPY TO SWAPO, THE CONTACT GROUP DECIDED TO GIVE A COPY TO SAM NUJOMA WHEN HE WAS BRIEFED MAY 13.

-- SEVERAL INACCURATE VERSIONS OF THE TALKS WERE ALREADY IN CIRCULATION AND THE CONTACT GROUP FELT IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT SWAPO BASE ITS COMMENTS ON A CORRECT RENDITION, AS FURTHER PROGRESS ON NAMIBIA IS LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED IN GOOD MEASURE BY THE SWAPO STANCE.

-- HAVING GONE THIS FAR, IT SEEMS TO MAKE GOOD SENSE TO GIVE COPIES TO AFRICAN LEADERS WHO MIGHT BE WILLING AND ABLE TO ASSIST IN BRINGING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA, SUCH AS NYERERE OR KAUNDA. WE ARE CONSIDERING DOING SO.

CHRISTOPHER

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